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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
**INFORMATION REPORT**

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COUNTRY Brazil

SUBJECT Refinery Construction for Companhia  
de Petroleo da Amazonia, SA at Manáos

PLACE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE) 25X1C

DATE ACQUIRED (BY SOURCE)

DATE (OF INFO.)

URR NO.	
DAS NO.	
OCI NO.	

DATE DISTR. 21 Jun 54

NO. OF PAGES 2

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SOURCE

1. Preliminary engineering work is now late May 1954 nearing completion in connection with the construction of a refinery approximately ten miles outside of Manáos for Companhia de Petroleo da Amazonia, SA. This is a private venture, there being no Brazilian Government ownership in whole or in part. The undertaking is being financed by the Bank of America of São Paulo and all components going into the construction are to be of US manufacture. Construction will commence in about four months August-September 1954 and the refinery is expected to be in operation by December 1955. The refinery will contain a five thousand barrel per day crude topping unit and a two thousand barrel per day catalytic cracking unit. (The fluid cracking process to be employed is licensed by Universal Oil Products Company.) The refinery will be one of the most modern in Brazil and is designed to permit the addition of units to keep up the caliber of output and the type of products distributed. It is presently designed to process high gravity crude (45 API), barged down the Amazon from Texas Gulf Producing Company, Ganso Azul properties in eastern Peru, and medium crude shipped in from the Oficina area of Venezuela. The Ganso Azul crude will be purchased with US dollars in accordance with an agreement between Companhia de Petroleo da Amazonia and Texas Gulf Producing Company. Distribution of the refinery's products throughout the Amazon Basin (Belém, and up and down the Amazon River) will be controlled by the I.B. Sabat Company of Manáos.
2. The Texas Gulf Producing Company refinery, which is located in the Ganso Azul area and approximately 2900 miles up the Amazon from Belém (roughly two thousand miles further up the river than Manáos) will probably shut down when the Companhia de Petroleo da Amazonia refinery starts producing by December 1955. I understand this Texas Gulf Producing Company refinery is as of May 1954 just about falling apart and is unable to meet specifications in its production of gasoline.

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3. Companhia de Petroleo da Amazonia, SA is a relatively new organization. The company's President is I.B. Sabat (of the I.B. Sabat Company) who is an exporter of jute, lumber, Brazil nuts, rubber, etc., and an importer of various products used in the Manaus area. He also distributes refined petroleum products in that area which products are now May 1954 obtained from the Texas Gulf Producing Company refinery previously referred to see Paragraph 2, above. Sabat is approximately 45 years of age and, to my knowledge, has visited the US but once (some years ago). The executive Vice-President of Companhia de Petroleo da Amazonia is Artur Soares Amorim. His father is an importer and merchandiser of hard and soft goods in Manaus. Artur Amorim was educated in Brazil and the US. He has a doctor's degree in aeronautical engineering from MIT Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At one time, he worked for the US Government conducting wind tunnel tests. During World War II he served with the Brazilian Air Force. He is approximately 39 years of age and is currently late May 1954 working in the US with - - - the US firm designing the refinery for Companhia de Petroleo da Amazonia, SA.

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